

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Travellers Rest

AND/OR COMMON

Travellers Rest

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lolo

~~XX~~ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Montana

CODE

30

COUNTY

Missoula

CODE

063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

unknown

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lolo

VICINITY OF

STATE

Montana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Missoula County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located just south of the small community of Lolo, Montana, near the western border of Montana, the Travellers Rest site was twice used as a campsite by Lewis and Clark and remains an undisturbed area of meadows along the Lolo Creek, a branch of the Bitterroot River which washes by the foot of the Bitterroot Mountains. As accurately as can be determined by comparison of the original descriptions with the local terrain, the site of Lewis and Clark's Travelers Rest is probably located within an area of approximately one square mile of pastures and lowland along the Lolo Creek and Bitterroot River.

On the east, the Bitterroot Mountains rise abruptly above the east bank of the Bitterroot River and overlook a valley of low pastureland about three miles wide. The site is located west of the Bitterroot River and includes the land surrounding the mouth of Lolo Creek and south, and stretches west to the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks, which run parallel to route 93, dividing the valley. The small town is mostly small farms and only a few structures are visible across the valley from the east end of the site, although route 93 is the major north-south thoroughfare through Idaho and does receive a considerable amount of traffic.

The 700-acre site, as seen on the USGS Florence, Montana map and the accompanying photographs, is used only for some farming and grazing. Both the Bitterroot River and Lolo Creek have reportedly been dredged in recent decades, and in such low flat land it is probable that the creek bed has shifted naturally somewhat since 1806. However, the natural scene is quite undisturbed and since according to the original sources, the campsites were located south of the creek, a sizeable amount of the area has been included to provide a sufficient setting for the historic site and to preserve the natural character of the area.

A farm house and a few farm buildings, presumably those of the owner of the site are located in the northwest corner of the area and north of Lolo Creek. These structures are non-historic and do not contribute to the national significance of the site. The road to the farm is the only access near the east side of the site.

At the time of the most recent visit, in September 1975, it was not possible to contact or even to identify the owner of the site, although the site is fenced and clearly private property with restricted access, as the surveyor was told.

Overlooking the site from route 93 on the west, the Montana Highway Department has constructed a highway turnout and erected an interpretive marker. A DAR marker is located less precisely farther north on the route. In 1964 the national historic landmark bronze plaque was given to a Mr. L. M. Hughes, the owner of land believed to be the Travellers Rest site. However, Mr. Hughes

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Travellers Rest

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

never mounted it, and has not been in contact with the Historic Sites Survey since 1972. Also, his may not be the same property as delineated in this most recent survey which was accomplished with the assistance of the Montana State Preservation Office and Dr. Merle Wells of Idaho.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X1800-1899	__COMMERCE	XXEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES September 9-11, 1805. BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A
June 30-July 3, 1806.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Travellers Rest is one of the pivotal sites on the Lewis and Clark Trail. It was at this point that the explorers, after being unable to find a water route from the Shoshone village to the Pacific, paused on September 9, 1805, before beginning the most arduous part of their journey over the Lolo Trail to Canoe Camp, on the Clearwater to the Pacific. It was at Travellers Rest also that the party camped on their return trip from June 30 to July 3, 1806, and Lewis and Clark began their separate journeys of exploration in Montana after which they reunited near Sanish, North Dakota and continued down the river to St. Louis.

Below is Capt. Meriwether Lewis' description of Travellers Rest on September 9, 1805:

...we continued our rout down the W. side of the [Bitterroot] river about 5 miles further and encamped on a large creek which falls in on the West. as our guide inform[ed] me that we should leave the river at this place and the weather appearing settled and fair I determined to halt the next day rest our horses and take some scelestial observations. we called this Creek Travellers rest. it is about 20 yards wide a fine bould clear runing stream the land through which we passed is hut indifferent a could white grayley soil. we estimate our journey of this day at 19. M.¹

Capt. William Clark described the company's arrival at the site on June 30, 1806:

...a little before Sunset we arrived at our old encampment into Clarks river. here we Encamped with a view to remain 2 days in order to rest ourselves and horses and make our final arrangements for Seperation. . . .²

¹Reuben G. Thwaites, Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806 (New York 1905), Vol. 3, 58;

²Ibid., Vol. 5, 174.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Travellers Rest

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

After remaining at Travellers Rest until July 3, Lewis set out on his journey with a small party to the Great Falls of the Missouri River after which he explored a portion of the Marias River. Clark and his men ascended the Bitterroot River, crossed overland to Fortunate Camp to their cache. After raising their boats the party descended the Beaverhead and Jefferson to Three Forks. At that point the party split, one group descending the Missouri to rejoin Lewis and his men near the mouth of the Marias. Clark and several other men ~~crossed overland to the Yellowstone and descended that stream to the~~ Missouri where they rejoined Lewis and his party.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Travellers Rest

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

As seen on the accompanying USGS Florence, Montana map, the Travellers Rest site, determined as accurately as possible, has been defined as within an area of approximately 700 virtually undisturbed acres surrounding the mouth of Lolo Creek, where it branches west from the Bitterroot River. The boundary has been drawn to include enough of the low meadowland and tree-lined creek to provide an adequate setting for the site of the two historic camps and to allow for possible changes in the creek bed.

From the foot of the Bitterroot Mountains on the east, the site extends across the Bitterroot river and about one-third of the way across the flat lands which are watered by the Lolo Creek, to the railroad tracks and paved highway which run north and south and divide the valley. From a short distance north of the Lolo Creek, the site extends about one mile south, enclosing pasturelands along the west bank of the Bitterroot River.

Beginning at the point where the north line of section 1, T11N, R20W intersects with the east bank of the Bitterroot River, the national historic landmark boundary runs southerly along the east bank of the river for about 5000 feet to its intersection with the north line of section 12, T11N, R20W; thence westerly along the north line of sections 12 and 11, T11N, R20W for about 6200 feet to the east side of the bed of the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks; thence northerly along the east edge of the bed of the railroad tracks for about 5200 feet to its intersection with the south line of section 35, T12N, R20W; thence easterly along the south line of sections 35 and 36 of T12N, R20W for about 4250' to the beginning point.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Reuben G. Thwaites, editor, Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806 (New York, 1905-06), Vol. 3
- Robert G. Ferris, editor, Lewis and Clark; Historic Places Associated with Their Transcontinental Exploration (1804-1806) (Washington, D.C. National Park Service, 1975).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 700 acres

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 11	724490	5181110	B 11	725100	5179510
C 11	723000	5179460	D 11	723220	5181070

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project; Ray M. Mattison 1961

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Survey - National Park Service

6/14/76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/12/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER